

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-69

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SAHEL AIRLIFTS

ROME FOR FODAG

REF: ROME 11523

1. FOLLOWING IS STATUS REPORT ON USG AIRLIFT OPERATIONS
IN THE SAHEL BY COUNTRY:

A. MALI - AT THE END OF 67 DAYS OF OPERATIONS IN MALI,
PRESENT AIRLIFT OPERATIONS HAVE MOVED 4,567 MT OF GRAIN IN
APPROXIMATELY 700 SORTIES. LOCATIONS SERVED INCLUDED: GAO,
GOUNDAM, TESSALIT, AND NIORO. THIS OPERATION WILL TERMIN-
ATE ON COMPLETION OF FULL LIFT OF 5,000 MT ESTIMATED

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NLT 8/30/74.

B. MAURITANIA - ON COMPLETION OF THE MALI AIRLIFT PER ABOVE, THREE PRESENT USAF C-130 A/C NOW OPERATING AT BAMAKO WILL SHIFT LIFT FROM WITHIN MALI TO MAURITANIA. A/C WILL LIFT UP TO 3,000 MT OF FOOD STOCKS BEING LOANED BY GOM ON DAILY SORTIES FROM BAMAKO BASE AREA TO NEMA, MAURITANIA WITH POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE MOVEMENTS TO AIOUN AND SELIBABY, DEPENDENT ON FIELD CONDITIONS AT NEMA. (FOR OSRO, FYI: USAF ASSESSMENT NEMA FIELD IS POSSIBLE RAPID

DETERIORATION DEPENDENT ON RAINS WHICH MAY PRECLUDE C-130 USE. INABILITY C-130 MOVE REQUIRED TONNAGE DUE FIELD CONDITIONS MAY NECESSITATE OTHER DONOR LIGHT A/C USE TO INSURE SUFFICIENT STOCKS AT NEMA.) PRESENT PLAN CALLS FOR ESTIMATED 6 SORTIES PER DAY TARGET FOR TOTAL 200 SORTIES.

C. CHAD - AIRLIFT OPERATIONS FOR CHAD PRESENTLY IN FINAL PLANNING STAGE. INITIAL STRATEGY CALLS FOR BASING OPERATION AT N'DJAMENA WITH DAILY SORTIES FROM MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA. LIFT WILL MOVE UP TO 2,000 MT MAXIMUM TO FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TENTATIVE LOCATIONS: MONGO (500 MT); FAYA (500 MT); BILTINE AND IRIBA (500 MT); ABEICHE (200 MT) ATI (200 MT); AND AM TIMAN (100 MT). CLEARANCE FROM FMG BEING PURSUED BUT NOT YET OBTAINED. OPERATION TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. ADVISE IF FURTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED. KISSINGER

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